

I strongly urge that that the legislature NOT pass this bill. Although I recognize we have severe budget crisis in our state, it is reckless and irresponsible to try and fund this gap with Keno.

Why? I'll quote an op-ed from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette when a similar bill measure was proposed in Pennsylvania: <http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/Op-Ed/2013/01/27/The-calamity-that-is-keno/stories/201301270271>

"We mustn't be timid about describing this as what it is: a tremendous and highly-regressive tax largely on the underprivileged and the elderly. It is funding government programs on the backs of precisely those whom those programs are supposed to benefit. It is an overwhelmingly cynical attempt to tap into the hope -- necessarily more common among the lower classes, the unemployed and those on fixed incomes -- that Lady Luck will deliver a payday in order to make a buck for the Harrisburg bureaucracy."

Substitute Hartford for Harrisburg and the same applies today. Governor Malloy's budget is already decimating the support system for the people who need them most - and this bill will just cause more problems while the rest of the budget takes away the support structures to deal with them when they inevitably arise. It is not only poor public policy, it is madness.

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